

CLAIMS

1. A parking brake assembly which includes a lever for operation of a brake shoe to provide a parking function, the lever carrying an automatic latching device for automatically latching to the lever an end fitting on an operating cable and a guide spring extending from an associated brake backplate into contact with the lever, the automatic latching device comprising a latching member mounted on the lever which is deflected aside by the end fitting as the cable is fed in a first direction towards the lever within the guide spring and which latches behind an abutment on the end fitting to latch the cable to the lever so that subsequent movement of the cable in a second direction opposite to the first direction moves the lever to operate the parking function, the assembly being characterised in that the end of the guide spring which contacts the lever is shaped to also act on the latching member to bias the latching member towards the position in which it latches behind the abutment on the end fitting.
2. A parking brake assembly according to claim 1 in which the latching member comprises a flap pivotally mounted on the lever with the end of the spring which contacts the lever secured to the lever on one side of the flap and formed into a loop which extends over the flap pivot and acts on the other side of the flap remote from the remainder of the guide spring to bias flap to the latching position.
3. A parking brake assembly according to claim 2 in which the flap has a slot in a lower edge thereof, the end fitting passing from one side of the flap to the other as the flap is deflected by passing at least partially through the lower end of the slot.
4. A parking brake assembly according to claim 2 or 3 in which the loop of the spring also serves to hold the spring in its operational position on the lever.

5. A parking brake assembly according to any one of claims 2 to 4 in which the lever has an end portion in the form of a U-shaped channel, the flap latching the cable between an edge of the flap and a base portion of the U-shaped channel.
6. A parking brake assembly according to claim 5 when dependent on claim 3 in which a projection on the base portion of the U-shaped channel projects into the lower end of the slot in the flap so that the end fitting is supported in the latched position on the projection and the end of the U-shaped channel.
7. A drum brake which includes a parking brake assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
8. A drum in disc brake which includes a parking brake assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
9. A parking brake assembly constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.